Hoch, Schoener, Sciambra

1/7/69

Dear Dick,

Because I know how convinced you are that there is real and deep significance in the tramp pictures I have misgivings about telling you what my own incomplete investigation shows. It comes from a source in a position to learn what might be true, a person well-connected in Dallas and friendly toward me personally.

He has his own ways of reaching official sources ~~fromxthex~~ in that city. He reports these men were arrested after the assassination and before Oswald. They were released without charge after Oswald's arrest. The place is what interests me most: behind the post office. I have just gotten this report from him and will be pursuing it further, for example to be certain that his reference to the post office is to the Terminal Annex, which is in the 200 block of South Houston. If this is, as I presume it is, the place of the arrest, there is no street behind Houston at that point, only the railroad tracks.

I sent him that one of the series of pictures showing only two men. He told me there were three, that one didn't show in the picture, and that they were picked up in a box car.

Now if this is the case, it become difficult if not impossible, regardless of any tentative identification that might be made, to believe any of these men could have been an assassin, for it would have been impossible for them to have done any of these things:

Shot from there;
Shot from the area of the depository and gotten there without passing many too many people on the overpass;
Disposed of their weapons.

I think there are ways in which I can carry this further. As you know, I have not, from the first, had any confidence in what was attributed to these pictures. I see other meaning and significance in them. However, for several ressons, one of which is the harm their misuse can do us, another the large amount of time I feel might better be spent in other areas they have and are taken, I have spent a little time in tracking them down, trying to learn what I can about them. Another person, unknown in Dallas, who got in touch with the police, got nowhere. My own checks with the paper disclosed that when LIFE asked the identity of the men, contemporaneously, there was no record. The photographers were then shooting at anything that moved, without time for the lefts to rights.

If these men were arrested where I have been told they were (and I use the word arrest not because it is accurate, but from habit, for everyone has assumed it, they would have been walked to the police cars by way of the tracks, as you know from having been there.

I will now attempt to get a picture of Lonnie Ray Wright. I do not know if I can. There are also other efforts I will make. Also, a real photographic expert who is a close friend of Garrison's has been asked by the staff to compare a real picture of Bradley with these pictures. He says the resemblance is truly remarkable, but that close comparison of all features and contours convinces him they are not identical. Sinverely, Harold Weisberg